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Minutes of Department Council Meeting on November 21, 2024

Participants: Daniele Dell'Aglio, Diana Plejdrup Frank, Giovanni Bacci, Helle Schroll, Jiri Srba, Kresten Laust Faaborg Schkerl, Lars Dalsgaard Vinther Schmidt, Lone Vriborg, Oliver Viller Nielsen, Peter Axel Nielsen, Stine Larsen, Tianyi Li, Johannes Bjerva

Unable to attend: Timothy Robert Meritt, Leon Groth,

Item 1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

Item 2. Department economy (info budget 2025)

Appendix: See slides about economy

Budget 2024 compared to budget 2025

- Income from faculty: 2 million in deviation primarily due to foreign self-payers (point of uncertainty). Primarily on CS IT (international students outside EU).
- External funding expenses: Spending on projects increased by about 2 million (accepted projects). Eventually, we would like to see an increase in the coming years. Currently, more applications have been submitted.
- Operating expenses: Major part is spent on travel expenses and derives from research groups (increase with 20%).
- Scientific staff: Salary up by 8 million. We are constantly influenced by staff coming in and out. 3 out of 9 positions are in Copenhagen. In 2025 we get 1.2 million to support hiring in Copenhagen from the faculty.
- Workload reduction (frikøb): Staff financed by external projects and not the department. A deviation on 675.000 DKK
- Technical administrative staff: We have spent 1,1 million more on salary.
- Rent: Slight deviation on 549.000 DKK. The cost is approx. 25 million in 2024 and 2025. The rent will be decreased when moving to FB7.

- Result: The performance target goal is zero as we need to go into balance. Basically, increase in income and costs. We will monitor the budget and accounting closely next year.

Possibilities for consumptions, result target and means to strategic efforts

An overview of the possibilities for consumptions, result target and means to strategic efforts were presented for 2024 – 2027. The numbers shown are estimated in terms of research and education funds, as all estimates are uncertain. Basically, our operational possibility is going up due to regulation of teaching. The estimate of external funding is hard to estimate.

We have made some investments this year in equipment 1.4 million (servers for research groups) and some furniture for FB7.

Government revenue

An overview of government revenue is based on what we get from the faculty divided between education, research means and other revenues. AAU just got an additional 86 million in basic funds recently. It looks as we are going up on both research and education funds.

TECH strategy funds

- Growth in Copenhagen in terms of teaching capacity paid by the strategic funds based on the TECH strategy for Copenhagen (IT Growth). This should be considered as an opportunity for meeting growth and societal needs for jobs in Copenhagen.
- Quantum Hub: Strategic funds allocated to building the Quantum Hub. AAU decision to focus on quantum computing.
- External funding: 300,000 DKK to support external funding initiatives.
- AAU Strategy: Mission secretariat supporting the three missions as part of the strategy.
- EVU activities: Some EVU activities: Security, Drones etc.

Item 3. News at the department

Overall plan for the buildings in CPH: We will remain in the three buildings A, B and C. Work is on settling the plans for the 3 buildings.

Search committees for scientific positions: Purpose is to work on getting better applicants for scientific positions. This is facilitated by the company "Is it a Bird" and financed by Willum. The purpose is to increase gender diversity. We are recruiting scientific staff to close teaching gaps. We also pursue excellence to extract external funding. Research programmes in security programming and AI, software engineering and systems development.

Comments:

- Hiring process can we finish this earlier? We conclude in mid-June. Difficult to get valid answers from applicants (actual arrival date) but there are changes in central HR processes. 1/3 of the applicants do not answer the question of campus. Relevant for teaching gap: If applicants are not ready for September, the candidates are not relevant.
- Search committees: The LivingLab is helping us with more interaction with the applicants in terms of them coming here seeing the premises and getting info on spouse programmes. The more we know the more reasonable we can act.

Sexism and work environment (VIVE report): A facilitated process at the department has been launched via the research groups this autumn. The group coordinators will facilitate this.

Item 4. Update Frederik Bajers Vej

Status is that there is a meeting in the steering group late November.

The Danish Building and Property Agency has taken over the renovation of FB5 and FB7. AAU will pay for the completion of FB5, and The Danish Building and Property Agency will pay for the other buildings.

An info meeting to be planned in January/February for both students and staff.

So far, a rough drawing has been settled in terms of office spaces, studios for students. FB5 rebuilding starts in 2026. The more detailed planning takes place in 2025 (placing of toilets, meeting rooms). A major part of the distribution of rooms are given due to the structure of the building.

Moving date is expected to be third quarter of 2027 (August, as we will not move in September). FB7C is for all students: Group rooms will be in swing space hopefully in 7E.

Rebuilding of 7D is starting in 2026. We will not move in at the same time as the rebuilding. 7C is currently occupied by ES Lab – which needs to be moved.

The bridge will happen between FB5 and FB7.

TECH Lab: Longer planning period – ready by summer of 2027.

Comments

- According to student representative Kresten Schkerl, at ES they have shown a chart to students and staff and a user group has been established involving students. According to the Head of Department of CS, ES are ahead of us in planning. CS can do the same after the info meeting in spring. Current decisions are that the walls are in place. The Friday Bar area is joint. ES and CS have decided there is one area connected to the canteen and larger events can be held in the canteen. The Heads of Departments have decided this. Joint Friday bars may be possible, and some activities can be separate. ES and CS student clubs could make a joint meeting (boundary conditions) in March or April.
- What about Database area (C building)? This will be social area for students.
- What about the canteen area in SEL300 is it closing? The 3 months test period is soon up. Maybe we should contact them to follow-up.

Follow-up:

Contact the person in charge of the canteen at SEL300 to follow-up on the 3 months test period (to avoid closing). Stine Larsen will see to this.

Item 5. Hirings

Appendix: List of recent hirings

The full list of hirings is attached to the agenda.

We have expanded with 4 professors.

- Thomas Dyhre Nielsen, DEIS
- Johannes Bjerva, DKW CPH,

- Niels Van Berkel, HCC
- Kristian Torp, DESS

This is an expansion in capacity and in research funding with a large number of professors. It was time to do so as some of our professors since the hirings years ago have gone to other positions inside and outside AAU.

Item 6. Onboarding scientific staff

Our onboarding process of scientific staff has been further developed. A process has been described going from the welcoming mail to onboarding activities within the first 90 days. Primarily involving research group coordinators but also the Head of Department and Head of Studies. There is a separation of the process for PhD students.

Comments

- What about new lecturers and the knowledge about censoring systems (find censors in time etc). There are many things to consider when you start here (form of exams) without knowing what is allowed.

Follow-up:

Input to the onboarding of new staff in terms of information to new teachers about censoring systems. It will be forwarded to the Head of Studies who has onboarding meetings with new staff. Diana Frank will see to this.

Item 7. Election 2024

This year, students and PhD students are up for election for all bodies. The full overview of all elections and sub-elections in connection with the ordinary election 2024 can be found [here](#).

Important dates for this year's elections:

- 30 September: Elections are called
- 7-25 October: Submission of candidate lists
- 25-28 November: Voting takes place
- 2 December: Publication of election results

It is important that students run for the bodies. This with reference to the fact that unfilled student seats remain unfilled throughout the election period February 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026.

Read more about AAU Elections on this [website](#)

Item 8. AOB

A question from Daniele D'ell Aglio about the structuring of staff in the research groups on the webpages. Questions about cs.aau.dk can be forwarded to Diana Frank and she will ask the AAU KOM web team about this.